

STATEMENT OF BASIS (AI No. 93267)

for draft Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit No. LA0116033 to discharge to waters of the State of Louisiana.

THE APPLICANT IS: USES Corporation
U.S. Maritime Services, Inc.
365 Canal Street, Suite #2500
New Orleans, LA 70130

ISSUING OFFICE: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)
Office of Environmental Services
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

PREPARED BY: Kelli Hamilton

DATE PREPARED: June 22, 2007

1. PERMIT STATUS**A. Reason For Permit Action:**

Permit reissuance of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit for a 5-year term.

B. LPDES permit - LPDES permit effective date: November 1, 2002
LPDES permit expiration date: October 31, 2007
EPA has not retained enforcement authority.

C. Date Application Received: May 4, 2007

2. FACILITY INFORMATION**A. FACILITY TYPE/ACTIVITY - ship and barge hold cleaning operation**

US Maritime Services, Inc. is a marine transportation services company that performs mid-stream and shoreside ship hold and barge cleaning operations at various locations on the Mississippi River. Operations include the cleaning of ship holds, the holds of ocean going barges, and inland hopper barges. Commodities that the ship/barge holds have transported are limited to dry bulk cargo. US Maritime provides labor, chemicals, and minor equipment for the service.

B. FEE RATE

1. Fee Rating Facility Type: minor
2. Complexity Type: II
3. Wastewater Type: II
4. SIC code: 4491

C. LOCATION - the Mississippi River between River Mile 0 and River Mile 247, Plaquemines Parish, St. Bernard Parish, Jefferson Parish, Orleans Parish, St. Charles Parish, St. John the Baptist Parish, St. James Parish, Ascension Parish, Iberville Parish, East Baton Rouge Parish, and West Baton Rouge Parish

Statement of Basis for
 USES Corporation, U.S. Maritime Services, Inc.
 LA0116033, AI No. 93267
 Page 2

3. OUTFALL INFORMATION

Outfall 001

Discharge Type: dry commodity hopper barge/open-top ship hold washwater
 Treatment: none
 Location: at the point of discharge from the barge/ship being washed
 Flow: intermittent
 Discharge Route: Mississippi River

Outfall 002

Discharge Type: coal and coke hopper barge/open-top ship hold washwater
 Treatment: none
 Location: at the point of discharge from the barge/ship being washed
 Flow: intermittent
 Discharge Route: Mississippi River

Outfall 003

Discharge Type: chemical and petroleum tanker barge/closed-top ship hold washwater
 Treatment: none
 Location: at the point of discharge from the barge/ship being washed
 Flow: intermittent
 Discharge Route: Mississippi River

Outfall 004

Discharge Type: food grade tanker barge/closed-top ship washwater
 Treatment: none
 Location: at the point of discharge from the barge/ship being washed
 Flow: intermittent
 Discharge Route: Mississippi River

4. RECEIVING WATERS

STREAM - Mississippi River

BASIN AND SEGMENT - Mississippi Basin, Segment 070301

DESIGNATED USES - a. primary contact recreation
 b. secondary contact recreation
 c. propagation of fish and wildlife
 d. drinking water supply

Statement of Basis for
 USES Corporation, U.S. Maritime Services, Inc.
 LA0116033, AI No. 93267
 Page 3

5. PROPOSED EFFLUENT LIMITS

BASIS - See Rationale below.

Summary of Proposed Changes From the Current LPDES Permit: Addition of Outfalls 003 and 004.

6. COMPLIANCE HISTORY/COMMENTS

No records of recent compliance actions were found.

B. DMR Review/Excursions - DMR's were reviewed from January 2005 through March 2007. The excursions are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Outfall</u>	<u>Reported Value</u>	<u>Permit Limits</u>
2/05	pH	002	9.1	6-9
4/05	COD	002	486	400
6/05	COD	002	324	250
6/05	COD	002	626	400
1/06	COD	002	522	400

7. EXISTING EFFLUENT LIMITS

Outfall 001	Outfall 002	
Part II BPJ requirements	COD	250:400 mg/l
	TSS	Report:Report mg/l
	pH	6-9

8. ENDANGERED SPECIES

The receiving waterbody, Subsegment 070301 of the Mississippi River Basin, has been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as habitat for the Pallid Sturgeon and migratory waterfowl which is listed as a threatened species. Consultation with the Service is required if the proposed permit is in sensitive waters and contains one or more listed substances. The draft permit is in listed sensitive waters and contains monitoring of cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, and zinc. Therefore, this draft permit has been submitted to the FWS for review in accordance with a letter dated September 29, 2006 from Watson (FWS) to Brown (LDEQ). Effluent limitations are established in the permit to ensure protection of aquatic life and maintenance of the receiving water as aquatic habitat. The more stringent of technology and water quality based limits (as applicable) have been applied to ensure maximum protection of the receiving water.

Statement of Basis for
USES Corporation, U.S. Maritime Services, Inc.
LA0116033, AI No. 93267
Page 4

9. HISTORIC SITES

The discharge is from an existing facility location, which does not include an expansion on undisturbed soils. Therefore, there should be no potential effect to sites or properties on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and in accordance with the "Memorandum of Understanding for the Protection of Historic Properties in Louisiana Regarding LPDES Permits" no consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer is required.

10. TENTATIVE DETERMINATION

On the basis of preliminary staff review, the Department of Environmental Quality has made a tentative determination to reissue a permit for the discharge described in the application.

11. PUBLIC NOTICES

Upon publication of the public notice, a public comment period shall begin on the date of publication and last for at least 30 days thereafter. During this period, any interested persons may submit written comments on the draft permit and may request a public hearing to clarify issues involved in the permit decision at this Office's address on the first page of the statement of basis. A request for a public hearing shall be in writing and shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing.

Public notice published in:

Local newspaper of general circulation

Office of Environmental Services Public Notice Mailing List

12. STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN (SWP3) REQUIREMENT

As per LAC33:IX.2341.B.14.k, stormwater discharges from facilities classified as SIC Codes 4491 are considered to be associated with industrial activities and accordingly require SWP3 requirements. However, an SWP3 is not included in the permit because the facility is a water related operation only. Barge BMPs are comparable to the SWP3 requirements; therefore, the barge BMPs will be applied instead.

Statement of Basis for
 USES Corporation, U.S. Maritime Services, Inc.
 LA0116033, AI No. 93267
 Page 5

Rationale for USES Corporation

1. Outfall 001 dry commodity hopper barge/open-top ship hold washwater

Based on BPJ and on permits for similar facilities, no effluent limitations are established for washwaters from barges previously containing dry commodities including: grains, pig iron, iron ores, minerals, food products, ferro alloys, zinc, lead, copper, scrap, aluminum, alumina, fertilizers, rubber products, wood products, stone, ores, and alloys. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for barge operations are listed in Part II.

2. Outfall 002 coal and coke hopper barge/open-top ship hold washwater

<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Limitation</u>	<u>Reference</u>
	Mo. Avg:Daily Max (mg/l)	

Flow MGD	Report:Report	LAC 33:IX.2701.I.1.b
COD	250:400	Similar Discharges; BPJ
TSS	Report:Report	Similar Discharges; BPJ
pH	6.0 - 9.0 s.u.	Similar Discharges; BPJ

Treatment: none

Monitoring Frequency: TSS shall be observed once per month and Flow, COD and pH shall be observed once per week at the point of discharge from the barge/ship being washed.

Limits Justification: Limits and Monitoring Frequency are based on current guidance for similar discharges from other facilities.

3. Outfall 003 chemical and petroleum tanker barge/closed-top ship hold washwater

<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Limitation</u>	<u>Reference</u>
	Mo. Avg:Daily Max (mg/l)	

Flow	Report:Report	LAC 33:IX.2701.I.1.b
BOD5	22:61	40 CFR 442, Subpart C
TSS	26:58	40 CFR 442, Subpart C
Oil & Grease	16:36	40 CFR 442, Subpart C
Total Cadmium	---:0.020	40 CFR 442, Subpart C
Total Chromium	---:0.42	40 CFR 442, Subpart C
Total Copper	---:0.10	40 CFR 442, Subpart C
Total Lead	---:0.14	40 CFR 442, Subpart C
Total Mercury	---:0.0013	40 CFR 442, Subpart C
Total Nickel	---:0.58	40 CFR 442, Subpart C
Total Zinc	---:8.3	40 CFR 442, Subpart C
pH	6.0 - 9.0s.u.	40 CFR 442, Subpart C

Treatment: none

Statement of Basis for
 USES Corporation, U.S. Maritime Services, Inc.
 LA0116033, AI No. 93267
 Page 6

Monitoring Frequency: Flow, BOD5, TSS, Oil & Grease and pH shall be observed once per week, Total Cadmium, Total Chromium, Total Copper, Total Lead, Total Mercury, Total Nickel, and Total Zinc shall be observed once per month at the point of discharge from the barge/ship being washed.

Limits Justification: Limits and Monitoring Frequency are based on 40 CFR 442, Subpart C and on current guidance for similar discharges from other facilities.

4. Outfall 004 food grade tanker barge/closed-top ship hold washwater

<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Limitation</u>	<u>Reference</u>
	Mo. Avg:Daily Max (mg/l)	
Flow	Report:Report	LAC 33:IX.2701.I.1.b
BOD5	24:56	40 CFR 442, Subpart D
TSS	86:230	40 CFR 442, Subpart D
Oil & Grease (HEM)	8.8:20	40 CFR 442, Subpart D
pH	6.0 - 9.0s.u.	40 CFR 442, Subpart D

Treatment: none

Monitoring Frequency: Flow, BOD5, TSS, Oil & Grease and pH shall be observed once per week at the point of discharge from the barge/ship being washed.

Limits Justification: Limits and Monitoring Frequency are based on 40 CFR 442, Subpart D and on current guidance for similar discharges from other facilities.

This facility is subject to Effluent Limitations Guidelines for Transportation Equipment Cleaning, 40 CFR Part 442, because, in accordance with 40 CFR 442.1.a, "this part applies to discharges resulting from cleaning the interior of tanks used to transport chemical, petroleum or food grade cargos." This facility cleans ocean going vessels containing chemicals and food grade cargo.

* Existing permits for similar outfalls
 BPJ Best Professional Judgement
 su Standard Units

NOTE

For outfalls containing concentration limits, the usage of concentration limits is based on BPJ for similar outfalls since the flow is variable and estimated.

TMDL Waterbodies

The discharges from U.S. Maritime Services, Inc. are to the Mississippi River, Subsegment 070301 of the Mississippi River Basin. Subsegment 070301 is not listed on LDEQ's Final 2004 303(d) List as impaired, and to date no TMDL's have been established. A reopener clause will be established in the permit to allow for the requirement of more stringent effluent limitations and requirements as imposed by any future TMDLs.